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CASA Report

Last Name of Case Singleton Case Number 17393975
Type of Hearing: Review CASA: Dawn Scott
Date of Hearing: 07/21/2016

Child(ren)	Age	DOB	Sex	Ethnicity
Singleton,Haley	15 yrs	02/15/2001	F	White

Nature of Allegations

Physical Abuse

Executive Summary:

As mother Jennifer Singleton has not attempted any contact with Haley by visitation, phone, or mail since January, and has not allowed CASA to visit or talk to her, and because Haley adamantly states that she will not go back to live with her, focus should be on placing Haley with her father Walter Singleton.

Walter Singleton has been visiting Haley monthly and calling her daily since the court brought him back to her life and has proven to be very willing to do whatever is necessary to see his daughter. Haley very much desires to move to Florida and be in the custody of her father as soon as possible.

Walter Singleton's visitation should be changed to unsupervised, and I recommend that Haley be allowed to go with him to Florida on July 23 for an extended visit, the length of time to be determined by the court. I understand that DFCS wishes caution in allowing visits, but it is my understanding that Walter Singleton should have been having visitation already granted in Florida court, he has cooperated in everyway with classes and evaluations, he has been very open and forthcoming with CASA. Also in the 9 months that I have gotten to know Haley, her experience at Cherokee Estates has changed her from a timid scared girl to a much more outspoken and confident young lady, she has also turned 15. I believe that Haley can and would speak out for herself if she felt she was in an unsafe situation.

I also recommend that it would be beneficial to proceed to custody as soon as possible so that Haley can start school in Florida. In the last school year she attended 2 schools and prior to that was home schooled, it would be less stressful for her to not have to change schools again this year. The school years starts August 15.

Petition Date	Removal Date	Attorney Appointed
09/04/2015	09/04/2015	Silvey

Research Information

Persons interviewed: (includes parents, children, social workers, relatives, doctors and others with information.)

Name	Relationship to child	Interview Dates
Singleton,Haley	Child	3/9/16, 3/29/16, 4/7/16, 4/27/16, 5/17/16, 6/7/16, 6/26/16, 7/13/16
Sluder,Haley	case manager	3/29/16, 4/27/16, 6/7/16, 7/13/16
Jones,Julia	Case Manager	4/4/16, 5/17/16, 6/15/16
Singleton,Walter	adoptive father	5/17/16,
Donna,Fincher	counselor	3/29/16

Records/Reports Reviewed:

Family Menders visitation reports

Review Date(s)

monthly

Visitation

Adjustment to Current Placement Haley is doing great, feels safe, active in sports and right now summer activities

Are visits between child & mother supervised? Yes Child & father? Yes

Visitation Comments I do not attend the visits between Haley and her father, but I do go visit Haley after each visit so that she can tell me all about it, Haley becomes very animated when talking about her dad and her visits with him, she seems very happy and says many times that she is so glad he is back in her life. She also talks a lot about moving to Florida to live with her dad, we talked about how it will be a big change, that they will all have to adjust to each other and not to have too big of expectations, Haley seems very level headed about it, says she knows they will have to adjust to each other but that she loves her dad and can't wait to move back with him and Julie (dads fiancé), Haley says her dad calls every night, they have discussed that once she comes to Florida for the first week he is going to stay home and for the second week, Julie is going to stay home, all to help her adjust. She also talks about how glad she is that dad supports her interest in sports. Also dad looked into ROTC availability at school, another interest for Haley. Haley seems very proud of her dad, talks a lot about his military experience and says that she wants to do the same to be like him. She told me that she thought her life was never going to get better, but now that her dad is back in her life, she is happy and hopeful again.

There have been no visits or attempts to visit between Haley and her mother Jennifer Singleton since January that I am aware of.

Possible Relative or Fictive-Kin Placements			
Name	Relationship	Willing Placement?	Home Evaluation Complete?
Amanda Pobiegl	Aunt/Uncle	No	No
Cheryl Gill	Grandparent	No	No

Jeff Pobiegll	Aunt/Uncle	No	No
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Other Children in the Family	
Name	Age
Seth Singleton	14
Aiden Singleton	14

Were attempts made to keep siblings together?

Explain

only Haley removed from home at present time

Education

Current Grade Level	9th		
Appropriate for Age?	Yes	Satisfactory Grades?	Yes
Attendance History	excellent		
Behavioral History	excellent		
Number of Schools Attended	2		

Additional Comments Haley will be starting 9th grade, it would be in her best interest to move sooner so that she can start school in Florida and prevent her from again having to change schools after the year starts. If she starts school in Dalton and then moves, she will have attended 4 schools in 2 years as well as coming from a Homeschooling environment prior to that, which causes additional stress.

Parental Information

Condition Unable to see Jennifer Singleton's home per her request via her attorney

Child(ren)'s needs, wishes and observations And Court Attention

Needs of the child(ren) - includes pyschological, emotional, physical health, cultural and financial/material

Haley has expressed a desire to find her biological brother, who was initially in foster care with Jennifer and Walter Singleton, Jennifer sent him back to DFCS Florida while Walter was in Iraq and Haley has not seen him since. I believe this was about 11 years ago, I told Walter Singleton about this and he stated that he would support Haley and help track him down if she was interested.

Wishes of the child (including custody placement)

Haley adamantly wishes to move to Florida and be in the custody of her father Walter Singleton. She has a strong desire to be moved as soon as possible so that she can start the school year in Florida.

CASA Volunteer Recommendations

Long-term permanency (goal) for child(ren)

Placed with her father Walter Singleton

Current Placement Recommendations

Haley is currently in a stable educational and safe environment at Cherokee Estates. She is very active in sports and other social activities. Haley should remain at Cherokee Estates until the court approves custody for her father.

Visitation between child(ren) and parent(s) and child(ren) and sibling(s)

Haley has requested a visit with her brothers, Seth and Aiden, however it is my understanding that their mother Jennifer says they don't want visit. Haley states that she doesn't want them to be forced to see her.

Psychological

on 3/29/16 at the request of Haley and her counselor at Solution Point Health, I attended a therapy session with Haley. Haley was feeling stressed that DFCS was "pressuring" her to pursue visits with her mother and also have her mother attend her sessions, it was decided by Haley and her counselor that these sessions are her private time to share and that perhaps her mother could have a separate session, Haley also decided that she would write her feelings about visitation with her mom and that she wanted to give that letter to me so that I could give it to the judge.

Medical/Physical Health

evaluation for braces for her teeth

Next court date/time frame based on child's best interest and/or statutory requirements

one month or less

Dawn R. Scott 7/21/16

CASA Volunteer Signature/Date

Annice Goodwin 7/21/16

CASA Program Staff Signature/Date

The CASA volunteer has been appointed by the juvenile court judge pursuant to O.C.G.A. §§ 15-11-104(d) and 15-11-106(a)(2). This report is submitted according to the duties of the appointed GAL as described by O.C.G.A. § 15-11-105(c)(15). The CASA volunteer reserves the right to amend this report based on additional information obtained in the court hearing.

This report as well as any and all records and information acquired or reviewed by the GAL during the court of his or her appointment shall be deemed confidential and shall not be disclosed except as ordered by the the court or applicable statute. O.C.G.A. § 15-11-105(f).